

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01 AID-20 IGA-02

PRS-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSR-01

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R 271055 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1842

SECDEF

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

S E C R E T BANGKOK 4885

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL CI PROGRAM AND THE ROLE OF CSOC

REF: BANGKOK 4707

1. IN JOINT MEETING ON MARCH 22 RTG CIVIL, POLICE AND MILITARY AGENCIES DESCRIBED PROGRESS ON THE NEW THAI NATIONAL COUNTERINSURGENCY PROGRAM TO TUE U. S. MISSION CI COMMITTEE, THE THAI SIDE SAID THAT CIVIL, POLICE AND MILITARY AGENCIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED BY GENERAL PRAPHAT THAT THE PROGRAM GUIDANCE OUTLINED IN BKK 3903 HAS BEEN APPROVED AND THAT THE BUREAU OF THE BUDGET HAS BEEN SO INSTRUCTED. HE DIRECTED THAT INDIVIDUAL AGENCY IMPLEMENTING PLANS BE DRAWN UP URGENTLY AND ESSENTIAL RESOURCES REQUESTED AS THE NEXT BUDGET PROCESS BEGINS SOON.

2. D/ S COUNSELOR ASKED IF RTG AGENCIES PRESENT HAD SUFFICIENT GUIDANCE AND AUTHORITY TO PROCEED WITH THE TFY 74 PROGRAM: THEY AGREED THEY DID. FIELD OFFICIALS WILL BE SUMMONED TO BANGKOK SHORTLY TO REVIEW REQUIREMENTS AND IRON OUT COORDINATION CHANNELS. CSOC WILL REVIEW EACH AGENCY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM FOR HARMONY WITH RTG CI STRATEGY AND WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES.

3. CSOC/ OCC DIRECTOR THEN REQUESTED US REACTION TO THE CI REQUIRE-
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MENTS STATEMENT RECENTLY FURNISHED THE EMBASSY (REFTEL). WE SAID
SIMPLY THAT IT IS UNDER STUDY; WE ARE ENDEAVORING TO IDENTIFY
FIRST PRIORITY ITEMS WHICH WE CAN RELATE MOST DIRECTLY TO THE
NATIONAL PROGRAM. THE AMBASSADOR HAS DIRECTED THE U. S. MONIES
OBSERVING THE
THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAND TO THE TILLER PROGRAM (LTT) AT
CAN THO. THE GVN DUBBED IT " FARMERS' DAY" AND DECLARED IT
A NATIONAL HOLIDAY. THE PRESIDENT' S SPEECH WAS BROADCAST OVER
GVN RADIO (FULL TEXT REPORTED FBIS S-260630).

3. THIEU SAID HE CONSIDERED LTT AN " INCREDIBLY" SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM.
CITING THE RESULTS OF THREE YEARS OF LAND DISTRIBUTION, HE SAID LTT
HAS BROUGHT ABOUT A " REVOLUTION WITHOUT BLOODSHED" IN RURAL VN. IN
SO DOING IT HAS " DEALT THE COMMUNISTS A DEADLY BLOW" AND DEFEATED
THEIR SCHEME " TO USE THE RURAL AREAS TO SURROUND THE CITIES,"
BECAUSE " THE RURAL AREAS ARE OURS, NOT THEIRS."

4. HE LINKED LAND DISTRIBUTION UNDER LTT TO RURAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, SAYING THAT RURAL DEVELOPMENT " WILL SERVE AS A
STARTING POINT FOR BUILDING NATIONAL ECONOMIC STRENGTH IN SVN" IN
THE POSTWAR PERIOD. TO CARRY OUT " THE TASK OF REHABILITATION"
HE ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAS ORDERED THE PREPARATION " OF A LARGE-
SCALE NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN WHICH
THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL RESOURCES IN AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES,
FORESTRY AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND THE INDUSTRIES PROCESSING
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE." WITH RESPECT
TO AGRICULTURE HE SAID THAT A NEW FIVE- YEAR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM WILL REPLACE THE 1971 PLAN " ON A LARGER SCALE."

5. HE THANKED " FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE US PEOPLE AND
GOVERNMENT" FOR THEIR AID TO THE LTT PROGRAM AND THEN CALLED
ON THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND " ASSISTANCE FROM FRIENDLY COUNTRIES
AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS" TO CARRY OUT THE NEW PROGRAM.

6. PRESIDENT THIEU ENDED WITH A PROMISE OF " SOCIAL REFORM" TO
SUPPORT THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. HE PROMISED THAT HE
WOULD " PERSONALLY" PUSH REFORMS IN THE GVN ADMINISTRATIVE
MACHINERY AND PERSONNEL " SAVE THE PEOPLE THE TROUBLE OF WAITING
AND CONFRONTING COMPLEX PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS AND PREVENT
ABUSE OF POWER OR CORRUPTION ON THE PART OF CIVIL SERVANTS AND
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CADRE."

7. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT' S SPEECH EMPHASIZED THE POSITIVE,

DEALING IN TERMS OF THE " HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT" OF A " SUCCESSFUL, PEACEFUL REVOLUTION." HE WAS QUITE NONPOLEMICAL, REFERRING TO THE COMMUNISTS ONLY IN CONTRASTING THE RVN' S PEACEFUL REVOLUTION WITH THE COMMUNISTS' REVOLUTION BY VIOLENCE AND TO POINT OUT THAT LTT AHS CONTRIBUTED DIRECTLY TO DEFEATING THE COMMUNISTS MILITARILY. HIS APPEAL FOR THE PEOPLE' S CONTINUED SUPPORT ECHOED SIMILAR APPEALS MADE IN OTHER SPEECHES SINCE THE CEASEFIRE; THIS ONE DIFFERED ONLY IN CALLING ON A MORE SPECIFIC AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS A MORE SPECIFIC TASK.

8. THIEU' S REMARKS ON PAST AND FUTURE FOREIGN AID SUGGEST THAT HE MAY USE THE " UNFINISHED BUSINESS" OF SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS ARGUMENT IN DISCUSSING US AID PROGRAMS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON NEXT WEEK.
BUNKER

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